

purchase of IV fluids by Safdarjung Hospital during 1990-92, which were directed to start functioning with effect from 20.9.1997. The terms of reference of the first Committee, inter-alia, include identification of gaps and deficiencies in existing procedures/systems; to examine whether equipments purchased by the hospitals remain unutilised for long periods of time and identify the reasons for the same and to suggest remedial measures.

The second Committee shall, inter-alia, ascertain the authenticity of allegations of purchase during the aforesaid years about the purchase of contaminated IV fluids at exorbitant prices by Safdarjung Hospital, to fix responsibility on the persons responsible for the same and to suggest remedial measures. The Committees have been asked to submit the reports within 4 months of the commencement of their work.

Infrastructure Facilities

144. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ. D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infrastructure projects on power sector cleared by the Cabinet Committee during 1997; and

(b) the arrangements made by the Government to ensure investment flow into the infrastructure sector both for Public and Private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Simhadri Thermal Power Project (1000 MW), Faridabad Gas Based Project (400 MW) of NTPC and North Eastern Regional Load Despatch Centre of POWERGRID have been accorded Cabinet clearance during 1997.

(b) to ensure investment flow into the power sector, Government has streamlined and simplified the procedure for clearances. The power sector is a priority sector for public sector funding in the Ninth Plan. The Bill for setting up of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions has been introduced in the Parliament. The enactment of the Bill would help the States to generate additional resources for the investments as well as enable higher comfort levels to the IPPs. Financial Institutions have also been requested to relax the norms of lending to the power sector.

Vocational Training Institutes

145. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vocational Training Institutes for which the Government have accorded sanction during the last

three years in the country, State-wise essentially in Kerala and the assistance provided to such institutions so far;

(b) the number of Vocational Training Institutes applied for sanction and the number of pending cases with the Government; and

(c) the reasons for not according sanction to the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Central Government is not implementing any Scheme under which sanction or financial assistance for opening up of new Industrial Training Institutes/Centres is given to the State Governments. Such centres are approved by the respective State Governments. However, under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project currently under execution, financial assistance on matching basis has been provided for seating up 89 new Women ITIs or for opening additional wings in existing ITIs exclusively for training of women. Five such ITIs for women are being set up in Kerala.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase System in Government Hospitals

146. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rampant corruption prevailing in the purchase of medicines, bandages, gauze and other items in the Central Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of cases came to light during the last three years and the action taken on each case;

(c) whether the CBI has taken the samples of bandages, medicines, etc. from hospitals recently for testing;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the testing of the samples;

(e) the steps taken to streamline the purchase system of medicines and other items by the hospitals in Delhi to check cases of frauds and corruption;

(f) whether the hospitals are floating tenders for the purchase of bedsheets and towels rather than to make purchases from the reputed manufacturers or through the Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar; and

(g) the quantity of bedsheets and towels purchased by hospitals during the last three years, hospital-wise and item-wise indicating the brand names of the items and the rates at which purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No such instance has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Recently one newspaper/report draw attention to the alleged irregularities in the purchase of gauze, bandages & other items. A fact finding inquiry was conducted by S.J. Hospital, which found that the hospital has not committed

any irregularities. No case from other Central Govt. hospitals was reported.

(c) CBI teams took samples for bandages & gauzes from Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS.

(d) The details and outcome of testing of samples are not available in these hospitals.

(e) and (f) In Central Government hospitals, purchases are done after following the prescribed purchase procedure.

(g) The details in respect of Central Government hospitals are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the Item	Name of Supplier	Quantity purchased	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5

Safdarjung Hospital

1. *Bed Sheets*

1994-95	Nil	Nil	
1995-96	N.T.C. M/s. L. Ram & co.	1000 nos. @ Rs. 155/- 3284 nos. @ Rs. 145/-	Govt. Agency (by open tender) Through open tender
1996-97	M/s. L. Ram & Co. M/s. Kendriya Bhandar	4216 nos. @ Rs. 145/- 3000 nos. @ Rs. 168/-	-do- Govt. Agency (by open tender)

2. *Hand Towels*

1994-95	Nil	Nil	
1995-96	M/s. Soni Surgical	2000 nos. @ 7.40 each	Through open tender
1996-97	Nil	Nil	

3. *Bath Towels*

1994-95	Nil	Nil	
1995-96	N.T.C.	300 nos. @ Rs. 55/- each	Govt. Agency
1996-97	N.T.C.	100 nos. @ Rs. 55/- each	Govt. Agency (by open tender)

Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

1. *Bed Sheets*

1994-95	M/s. N.T.C. M/s. Haryana State Small industries	2739	
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1	2	3	4	5
	1995-96	M/s. Haryana State Small Industries M/s. Acash	4800	
	1996-97	M/s. Gujarat Rajya & Audoyogic Shakti Federation M/s. Kendriya Bhandar	5500	
2.	<i>Towels</i>			
	1994-95	Nil	Nil	
	1995-96	M/s. Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan	3100	
	1996-97	M/s. Soni singer M/s. Medical Agency	1599	

Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated hospitals

In Lady Hardinge Medical College, the bedsheets are stitched in the hospital by the tailores, after purchasing the white sheet cloth directly from M/s. Khadi Bhandar @ Rs. 48/- per meter. Each bed-sheet requires 2.74 meters of 1.50 width. 10700 nos. bedsheets were stitched in last three years. The towels were purchased direct from M/s. Khadi Bhandar @ Rs. 36/- each. Total 2200 towels were purchased in the last three years.

Kalawati Saran Children Hospital

1.	<i>Bed Sheets</i>		
	1994-95	M/s. Khadi Bhandar	4000 nos. @ Rs. 130/-each
	1995-96	-do-	6000 nos. @ Rs. 130/- each
	1996-97	Nil	Nil
2.	<i>Towels</i>		
	1994-95	Nil	Nil
	1995-96	Nil	Nil
	1996-97	Nil	Nil

[*Translation*]

Relations with Fiji

147. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fiji government have requested India for restoration of diplomatic ties with it;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken for avoiding the position as in 1989; and
- (d) the time by which the Indian Embassy is likely to start functioning there?
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):
- (a) Yes, Sir.